

XI. *Description of a new Genus of Carabideous Insects from the Upper Amazon River, Brazil.* By J. O. WESTWOOD, Esq., M.A., F.L.S., &c.

[Read 1st February, 1858.]

IN one of the many boxes of insects collected and sent by Mr. Bates from the Upper Amazon River were several specimens of a small beetle of a very peculiar *primâ facie* appearance or habit, differing from every known form, but having the nearest apparent relationship to certain Heteromerous beetles, such as *Adelostoma*, or the smaller species of *Nosoderma*, &c., as well as to the genus *Rhysodes*; the sub-parallel form of the body, sulcated prothorax and elytra, and obscure luteous covering of the tegument, agreeing with the general appearance of some of the former of these forms. On examining the tarsi it became evident, however, that the insect was Pentamerous, whilst the digitated structure of the anterior tibiæ, the organization of the trophi, and the filiform antennæ, indicated the family *Carabidæ* and sub-family *Scaritides* as the legitimate situation of this remarkable form, although very distinct from all the known genera of that sub-family.

Order COLEOPTERA.

Family CARABIDÆ.

Sub-family SCARITIDES.

SOLENOGENYS, Westw.

Corpus oblongum, lateribus sub-parallelis, dorso sub-planum, supra obscurum, punctatum, et sulcatum; collo et parte postica pronoti constrictis, inde corpore quasi tripartito.

Caput magnitudine prothoracis, sub-triangulare, angulis posticis liberis rotundatis paullo-elevatis, margino antico truncato, disco irregulari bisulcato, parteque antica sulcis brevioribus impresso. Caput infra sulcis duobus obliquis profundis postice convergentibus, ante prosternum conjunctis, pro an-

- tennarum receptione, marginibus sulcorum valde elevatis, et singulo postice in cornu brevi retro porrecto terminato. Oculi parvi laterales ante medium marginis lateralis inserti.
- Antennæ capite vix longiores, sub lobum ante oculos affixæ, filiformes, articulo basali brevi (inde antennæ haud geniculatæ); 3tio reliquis parum longiori, his sensim sed paullo latioribus.
- Labrum breve, transversum, angulis anticis rotundatis.
- Mandibulæ latæ, breves, trigonæ, apice acutæ, simplices, versus basin externè rotundatæ.
- Maxillæ parvæ, apice spina acuta terminatæ, intus spinosociliatæ. Palpi interni graciles biarticulati. Palpi externi articulo 1mo et 3tio parvis; 2do longiori, dilatato; 3tio etiam longiori, basi latiori conico-ovato.
- Mentum parvum, transversum, antice et postice sinuatum, in medio marginis antici spina acuta armatum. Labium minutum, paraglossis haud porrectis? Palpi labiales parvi, 3-articulati, articulis 2do et 3tio majoribus, hoc conico-ovato.
- Collum distinctum, angustum, rotuliforme.
- Prothorax sub-octagonus, capite paullo minor, longitudine latitudinem paullo superanti; supra planum, lateribus subcrenulatis, disco longitudinaliter sulcato.
- Mesothorax antice valde angustus. Scutellum minutum, vix distinctum.
- Elytra oblonga, depressa; prothorace latiora, ad basin angulo prominente instructa; postice rotundata, transversè punctata, singulo 3-carinato.
- Alæ magnæ, stigmatibus magno luteo. Prosternum simplex, inter coxas pedum anticorum elevatum, sed retro haud porrectum. Metasternum breve. Coxæ et trochanteres pedum posteriorum magni.
- Abdomen subtus 5-annulatum, segmento 1mo in triangulum inter pedes posticos productum. Pedes breves, graciles. Tibiæ anticæ palmatæ, reliquæ spinulosæ. Tarsi 5-articulati, simplices.

SPECIES UNICA.

Scelenogenys fœda, Westw. (Plate I. fig. 14.)

- Tota picea, rugosa, punctata, pulvere luteo vestita; pedibus magis brunneis, capite lateribus pone oculos acutis et paullo elevatis, pronoto canali tenui medio longitudinali alterisque

duobus latoribus lateralibus, lobo utrinque postico magis elevato; elytris planis, sutura costisque tribus in singulo elevatis, laterali majori et acuta, corpore infra piceo.

Long. corp. lin. 4; lat. fere lin. $1\frac{1}{2}$.

Habitat in Brasilia, prope fluvium Amazon. Dom. H. W. Bates.
In Mus. Hopeiano, Oxoniæ, et alior.

P.S.—A description and figure, including the structural details given above and represented in the accompanying plate (Plate I. fig. 14—22), were communicated to the Entomological Society on the 1st February, 1858, and a short notice of the communication (sufficiently characteristic however for identification) was published in the Journal of the Proceedings of the Society given in the Zoologist of the following month. Specimens of the insect, however, having been forwarded to Paris, a fresh description and figure of it were published some months subsequently* by Mr. Thomson in his "Archives Entomologiques," under the name of *Aulacinia Rhysodioides*. The description is accurate, and the figures, both of the perfect insect and details, are generally excellent: the costæ on the elytra are, however, too much curved in the figure of the perfect insect, and the pronotum too strongly tubercled. The true character of the legs is also not carefully rendered. The figure representing the underside of the head enormously magnified is unintelligible as regards the under parts of the skull. I find, in fact, nothing of the ornamental details represented within the hind part of the antennary canals, neither is there any truth in the two biarticulated processes represented on the outside of the mentum. The anterior lateral lobes of the piece supporting the mentum extend forwards as far as the insertion of the antennæ, and the apparent second joint in M. Nicolet's figure is in fact nothing else than the deflexed edge of the mandibles: all that is required, therefore, is to scratch out the transverse line at the extremity of this supposed second joint, whereby it will appear what it really is, the interior edge of the mandibles.

* Mr. Thomson's description forms portion of a paper to which the date of 1st February, 1858, is prefixed. This must, however, have been the date when the article was written, since we find in a *preceding* page of the same sheet a note of a letter, dated from Bahia, on the 11th March.

DESCRIPTION OF PLATE I.

(Figs. 14—22.)

- Fig. 14. The insect highly magnified.
15. The underside of the head.
 16. The head sideways, with two basal joints of one of the antennæ.
 17. The labrum and mandibles.
 18. One of the maxillæ.
 19. The mentum and its appendages.
 20. The prosternum, with the base of the fore pair of legs.
 21. One of the wings.
 22. The metasternum and underside of the abdomen, with the base of the hind pair of legs.
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